

THE
ACE
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1998



PARTIAL INDIA RADIO



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DIALOGS

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- LATE LOGS -

Radio Metallica Worldwide: 7/15-2143-6955-AM. (DK,OH 334)

Reefer Madness Radio: 7/13-0300-6955-USB. (DK,OH 555)

WACK: 7/14-0313-6955-USB. (DK,OH 444)

- FROM ACROSS THE POND -

Dark Pampa Radio-

July 25-*0100-0130*-11469.9-USB. Relay via SWRS, moody organ mx & lively inst. mx, many IDs several in English. (KT,Quebec 353)

Radio Strike-

July 25-0044-0058*-11469.9-USB. Relay via SWRS, OM in Italian w/mx by Marvin Gaye & George Michael. (KT,Quebec 252)

Shortwave Relay Service-Wuppertal, Germany

July 25-*0058-0100*-11469.9-USB. Loop ID. (KT,Quebec 252)

July 25-*0130-0200*-11469.9-USB. Loop ID. (KT,Quebec 353)

UNID

Aug.2-0100-0115-3919.9-AM. English (?) OM w/tx & mx. (MP,NY just above noise)

- NORTH AMERICA - SHORTWAVE -

Betty Boop Radio-Providence, RI

July 22-*0055-0135*-6955-AM. Pgm #2 w/lotsa Betty Boop tunes, thanked various listeners who wrote in, played "Holiday In Cambodia" by The Dead Kennedy's for Pol Pot song by Carmen Miranda. (KT,Quebec 555 good audio!) (SM,OK)

Aug.21-0227-0301-6955-USB. Replay of 7/22, 0055 UTC pgm. (RTJ,TX fair cute show!) (LS,OH 353) (SM,OK)

Deliverance Radio-QSL info unknown

July 19-*0016-0033-6955-USB. Inbred Banjo Boy & Buford T.Squeeler w/the "Love Theme From Deliverance". (SM,OK PLS QSL) (MH,SC 242) (MP,NY 2-353 PLS QSL) (LS,OH 252) (KT,Quebec 232)

Free Dylan Experience-Providence, RI

July 18-*0156-0222*-6955-USB. Major Bob w/mx by Freddie Fender, James Brown, Dukes Of Dixie & Cincinnati Rag, called for Shadow, Echo Alpha, Joe Mama & Desperado. (MP,NY 454) (MH,SC 333) (LS,OH 253) (SM,OK) (CS,OH) -

Free Hope Experience-Blue Ridge Summit, PA

July 18-*0125-0152*-6955.1-USB. Major Spook w/replay of Premier Brdcast & Test Xmission pgm. (MP,NY 454) (MH,SC 444) (CS,OH 354) (JS,NE)

Aug.1-*0348-0408-6955-USB. R&B song, QRM from whistlers & hams. (JS,NE)

Jerry Rigged Radio-Providence, RI

July 31-2330-2342*-6950.1-AM. Possible mx from the 50's. (MH,SC 242/444) (LS,OH 353)

Aug.16-0144-0220-6955, 6822, 6918, 7325, 7475, 7600-USB. "Playing cat & mouse" brdcast, one song per frequency, sd "catch us if you can!". (JR,VA very good) (BA,PA 434) (LS,OH 353) (PD,ME fair)

Aug.16-0327-0345*-6955-USB. Playing oldies:"Everybody's Somebody's Fool", "Heart & Soul", "God Only Knows", sudden QRT. (RTJ,TX best sig. ever!) (BA,PA 434)

KBLK-Providence, RI

July 31-2310-2316-6955-USB. Testing new xmtr but annr sounded different from previous one. (LS,OH 353)

Lounge Lizard Radio-Providence, RI

Aug.1-2200-2238*-6955-AM. Dean Soundgarden w/replay of 1st Anniv. pgm. (KT,Quebec 454) (LS,OH 555) (MH,SC 444) (GZ,OH 242) (MP,NY 3-454)(PD,ME poor)

Montana Audio Relay Service-Merlin, ONT

Aug.9-2145-2217-6955-USB. Replay of stn's 2nd pgm. (NW,ONT fair) (GS,NY as unid PLS QSL) (JS,NE 222)

Mystery Radio-Stonham, MA

July 21-0400-0429*-6955-USB. S/on w/Rick Wakeman keyboard inst. mx. (SM,OK) (KT,Quebec 353)

Aug.2-0457-0532*-6955-USB. Special show in Spanish, lots of announcing by Giggles, ID as "Radio Mysterioso". (SM,OK) (RR,CA 343) (JS,NE 423)

Aug.2-0634-0712*-6955-USB. Replay of 8/2, 0457 UTC pgm. (SM,OK)

Aug.3-0214-0248-6955-USB. Replay of 8/2, 0457 UTC pgm. (JS,NE 423+) (PD,ME fair)

Aug.9-0327-0340-6955-USB. Replay of 8/2, 0457 UTC pgm. (NW,ONT good) (MH,SC 444) (SM,OK) (JS,NE 423) (PD,ME good)

Aug.15-0400-0410*-6955-USB. Usual pgm of instrumental rock & new age mx, laughing YL @QRT. (GZ,OH 242+) (SM,OK) (PD,ME fair)

Aug.15-0421-0453*-6955-USB. "Muzak for the year 2010 & beyond", sd "if you want lyrics sing along!". (SM,OK)

Aug.15-0501-0538*-6955-USB. No details given. (SM,OK)

Aug.16-0500-0538-6955-USB. Rock type instrumental mx. (RTJ,TX very good) (RR CA 444) (JS,NE)

Aug.17-0238-0317-6955-USB. Replay of 8/16, 0500 UTC pgm. (RTJ,TX good) (SM,OK)

Radio Amazonia-Wuppertal, Germany

Aug.17-0156-0225*-6955-USB. Pgm of rock mx w/OM, via unid NA relay. (GZ,OH 343) (RTJ,TX very good) (SM,OK) (LS,OH 252 as unid)

Radio Azteca-Belfast, NY

Aug.21-0022-0030-6955-USB. Bram Stoker w/Mx & ID Special #2. (RTJ,TX good)

Radio Blandequ-Merlin, ONT

Aug.16-0348-6955-USB. Mix of Spanish mx & IDs. (RTJ,TX good)

Radio Caliente-Merlin, ONT

Aug.16-0349-0419*-6955-USB. Bi-lingual mx & announcements, sd to include \$1 w/ reports. (RR,CA 544) (JS,NE 433+)

Radio Clandestine-QSL info unknown

July 17-0220-0240*-6955-AM. Songs:"I Wanna Be A Lifeguard", "Come Back Baby", jingle IDs. (KT,Quebec 353)

July 18-1607-1615+-6949.7-AM. Old pgm w/annr RF Burns. (MP,NY 353) (LS,OH 252)

Radio Eclipse-Providence, RI

Aug.19-0137-0141*-6955.1-USB. Steve Mann w/special Clinton sex scandal follow up pgm. (JR,VA 333) (SM,OK) (LS,OH 353) (PD,ME fair)

Radio Free Euphoria-Belfast, NY

July 19-2259-2338-6955-USB. No details given. (SM,OK) (LS,OH 252)

July 20-0148-0217+-6955-USB. Annr Captain Ganja w/rock mx, sound clips, Cheech & Chong's "Low Rider", sd "This is the homegrown service of R. Free Euphoria". (SM,OK) (KT,Quebec 242) (JS,NE 211) (PD,ME poor)

Radio Metallica Worldwide-Blue Ridge Summit, PA

July 18-0242-0245+-6955-AM. Replay of pgm from last year. (KT,Quebec 353) (LS,OH 454) (MH,SC 232) (SM,OK)

July 18-1410-1520+-6955.1v-AM. Dr.Tornado, Senor El Nino & Jade w/pgm of rock mx & discussion. (GZ,OH 454+) (LS,OH 444) (PD,ME fair)

July 23-2246-2300+-6954.6v-AM. Mx by Pink Floyd, King Crimson, apologized for late QSLs. (KT,Quebec 353)

July 24-0124-0205*-6954.4v-AM. Replay of 7/23, 2246 UTC pgm. (KT,Quebec)

July 24-0308-0337+-6955v-AM. Replay of 7/23, 2246 UTC pgm. (KT,Quebec)

July 24-1329-1355*-6955.6v-AM. Replay of 7/23, 2246 UTC pgm. (KT,Quebec)

July 24-2250-2347*-6955v-AM. Replay of 7/23, 2246 UTC pgm. (KT,Quebec) (GZ,OH 454+) (LS,OH 555)

July 25-0140-0205*-6955-AM. Dr.Tornado & Sandman w/rock mx by Pink Floyd & King Crimson. (LS,OH 555) (MH,SC 333) (PD,ME good)

July 25-0308-0349-6955-AM. Replay of 7/25, 0140 UTC show. (MH,SC 555) (SM,OK)

July 25-2301-2347-6955.1-AM. Replay of 7/25, 0140 UTC show. (MH,SC 444) (SM,OK as unid PLS QSL)

July 26-1505-1547*-6955-AM. Rock mx w/Dr.Tornado. (GZ,OH 353+)

July 27-0049-0102*-6955-AM. Rock mx & sketches. (GZ,OH 555) (SM,OK as unid PLS QSL)

Aug.1-0050-0221*-6955-AM. Plenty of tx by Jade, Senor El Nino & Dr.Tornado, parody ads & rock mx. (KT,Quebec 454) (MH,SC 555) (GZ,OH 555) (LS,OH 555) (JS,NE 222) (PD,ME good)

Aug.2-0418-0455*-6955-AM. Mx including "Jungle Love" by Steve Miller Band. (SM,OK) (RR,CA weak) (JS,NE 322/221+)

Aug.2-1427-6955-AM. Dr.Tornado sd format change to classical mx but went into rock mx. (MP,NY good)

Aug.2-1849-1856-6954.8-AM. Mx by Metallica & The Knack. (MH,SC 242) (GZ,OH 454)

Aug.2/3-0231-0023*-6955-AM. S/on w/classical mx then into pgm of rock tunes & in studio discussions. (GZ,OH 555) (PD,ME fair)

Aug.11-0156-0251-6955-USB. Repeat of "German Hate Speed Metal" show. (MH,SC 333)

Radio Nonsense-Belfast, NY

Aug.17-0109-0151*-6955-USB. Joe Mama w/pgm of rock mx plus some sketches. (GZ, OH 242+) (RTJ,TX very good) (SM,OK) (LS,OH 252)

RFM-Belfast, NY

Aug.16-0250-0322-6955-AM. Program of Xmas tunes w/ancr HV Short. (GM,VA 322) (BA,PA 211 as unid PLS QSL) (LS,OH 353) (JS,NE as unid PLS QSL) (PD,ME fair to good)

Ricochet Radio-QSL info unknown

Aug.3-0139-0154+-6954.8-AM. Annr Rick O'Shay w/pgm of rock, annr drinking beer & talking between songs, sd stn given airtime by Radio Animal. (GZ,OH 454/141)

The Weed-QSL info unknown

July 23-1300-1313*-14250-USB. Playing orchestral mood pieces, OM shouts "The Weed", flute & trumpet jazz mx, scary sfx. (KT,Quebec 151)

Voice Of Louie-QSL info unknown

Aug.15-2145-2156-6955-USB. Big band era mx, mentioned dedicated to Louie & "best of Louie". (GM,VA 444 PLS QSL)

Voice Of Stupidity-QSL info unknown

July 26-1658-1703-6955-USB. Novelty tune & some OM tx w/IDs. (GZ,OH 252)

Voice Of The Pig's Ear-QSL info unknown

Aug.7-2350-2355-6955-USB. OM talking abt Janet Reno, US soldier who refused to wear a UN uniform, Clinton definition of anti-terrorism, lots of pauses between thoughts mx by Bon Jovi. (LS,OH 353 as VOT Patriot)

Aug.8-0121-0131-6955-USB. Replay of 8/7, 2350 UTC show. (NW,ONT fair) (LS,OH 253 PLS QSL) (JF,RI 242 PLS QSL) (SM,OK as unid PLS QSL)

Aug.8-0331-0349-6955-USB. OM w/tx abt Hiroshima & the Japanese secret work on an A-bomb, UN training in SC, something about planes & helicopters spraying toxic aluminum waste, slogan of "Right Wing Radical Lunatic Fringe Radio". (MH,SC 343) (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Aug.11-0120-0124-6955-USB. Testing. (LS,OH 242 PLS QSL) (NW,ONT)

Aug.11-0308-0338-6955-USB. Tx abt various government news items, mx by Robin Trower, Burns & Allen comedy skit. (BB,IL fair PLS QSL) (SM,OK PLS QSL) (JS,NE 423 PLS QSL)

Aug.16-0420-0449-6955-USB. Tx abt Bush's 1000 pts. of light, World Bank, Waco, Janet Reno. (RR,CA 232) (JS,NE 433 PLS QSL)

Aug.18-0059-0101*-6955-USB. Caught end of show w/anncr apologizing for going minute & 1/2 overtime. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Voice Of The Rock-Providence, RI

Aug.15/16-2325-0022-6949.4-AM. Pgm of rock mx including Alice In Chains, Beach Boys, 311, Soul Coughing. (PD,ME fair) (JR,VA 111) (LS,OH 252)

Aug.16-1301-1400-6955-AM. Replay of 8/15, 2325 UTC pgm. (LS,OH 151)

WACK Radio-anncd 1-888-959-8177 or wackradiomail@juno.com for reports

July 20-*0318-0350*-6955-USB. Music by Marilyn Manson, parody ads, said "if I don't get any calls I'm shuttin' this fuckin' thing down!", guest DJ Joe. (KT,Quebec 454) (JS,NE 211)

WEED-Huntsville, AL

Aug.2-*0803-0906*-6955-USB. Songs:"Radioactive", "Rebel Yell". (SM,OK)

Aug.9-*0802-0903*-6955-USB. Mx including "Dream Weaver" & "Got The Whole World In His Hands". (SM,OK)

Aug.20-*0407-0419-6955.1-AM. Hrd bugle calls, rest was in lotsa static. (SM,OK)

WHYP-anncd whyp1530@yahoo.com for reports

July 24-0040-0106*-6954.9v-AM. New stn w/show dedicated to the memory of pioneer brdster James H. Brown, gave weather reports for Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, etc, short bits of mx, another OM gave stn ID & e-mail address. (MH,SC 533) (JF,RI 433) (KT,Quebec 555) (PD,ME fair as WHYT PLS QSL)

July 24/25-*2349-0015+-6955-AM. Replay of 7/24, 0040 UTC show. (KT,Quebec 555+) (MH,SC 433)

July 31-0103-0128-6955-AM. Replay of 7/24,0040 UTC show. (MH,SC 433) (PD,ME fair as WHYT)

Aug.8-0045-0101-6955-USB. Replay of 7/24, 0040 UTC show. (LS,OH 252) (NW,ONT fair)

Aug.9-2102-2110-6955-USB. Replay of 7/24, 0040 UTC show. (NW,ONT good)

Aug.13-0042-0056*-6954.9-USB. 2nd pgm w/weather forecasts mixed with Dr.Tornado dialog like "must be the government controlling our weather" & "oh boy, the whole country is overcast". (SM,OK) (PD,ME fair as unid PLS QSL)

WKND-Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Aug.2-0113-6954.7-AM. Talking abt loving beer & sex, ID by Radio Animal. (MP,NY tough copy)

WRYT-Belfast, NY

July 24-*2149-2233*-6954v-AM. Mx by Iron Maiden, Van Halen, Rolling Stones, AC/DC, sd "This is WRYT back on the air to bring you more classic rock & roll". (KT,Quebec 252)

July 25-2230-2233*-6954.3-AM. Mx by Blind Melon. (MH,SC 333)

?? UNIDENTIFIEDS ??

July 17-*0328-0400+-6954.5-AM. S/on w/"Secret Agent Man", oldies mx, some kind of skit. (KT,Quebec 252)

July 18-2023-2033-6955-USB. Played an old AFRTS/CBS comedy tape, Lucky Strike ad. (LS,OH 352)

July 18-2229-2241-6955-USB. Replay of 7/18, 2023 UTC unid. (LS,OH 452)

July 18-*2340-2353*-6955.1-USB. "Cocaine" & other tunes, distorted audio. (SM,OK PLS QSL) (LS,OH 453) (KT,Quebec 454)

July 19-0000-0011-6955-USB. Possible Grateful Dead mx. (LS,OH 453) (KT,Quebec 455)

July 19-0100-0115*-6955.1-USB. Rolling Stones mx. (SM,OK PLS QSL) (LS,OH 453) (KT,Quebec 455)

July 21-*2350-2359*-6955-USB. On & off w/50's mx & "My Sharona", Betty Boop R. xmtr test? (KT,Quebec 555)

July 24-0315-0320-6919.9-AM. Snippets of instrumental mx, low modulation. (KT,Quebec)

July 24-2037-2048*-6955-USB. Rolling Stones mx. (KT,Quebec)

July 25-*0008-0020*-6955-USB. AC/DC mx jamming WHYP. (KT,Quebec)

July 25-*0021-0039*-6955-AM. Old ID jingles from various USA/Canada MW stns, some rock mx. (GZ,OH 454+) (KT,Quebec) (LS,OH 453) (MH,SC 444)

July 25-0106-0115*-6955-USB. Tom Petty tunes. (KT,Quebec) (LS,OH 251)

July 25-0353-0357*-6954.8-AM. Hrd mx w/"Oh Yea" in it repeated. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

July 26-0015-0020*-6955-USB. Hard rock mx, distorted audio. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

July 26-0105-0114*-6955-USB. Hrd mx w/tx @QRT. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

July 27-0445-6955-?. Mx included "Bad Moon Rising" by CCR & "Bad Company" by Bad Company. (BB,IL PLS QSL)

July 31-0015-0019-6955-USB. Couple of songs. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Aug.1-0204-0212+-6955-?. On adjacent to RMWW. (LS,OH 221)

Aug.1-0426-6955-?. Mx included "Lucky Man" by ELP. (BB,IL PLS QSL)

Aug.2-*0100-0130+-6955-AM. OM w/mention of pgm #3, Radio Animal & WKND, punk mx, ID as ? Radio. (KT,Quebec 232)

Aug.2-0140-0152*-6955-USB. Supertramp mx. (SM,OK PLS QSL) (LS,OH 554 PLS QSL)

Aug.2-0204-0213*-6955-USB. Supertramp mx. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Aug.4-0129-0131-6955-USB. James Brown mx. (PD,ME fair PLS QSL)

Aug.8-*0156-0206*-6954.9-USB. Hrd songs w/very soft tx in between, one of the songs was "Your My Angel". (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Aug.8-0213-0232-6955-USB. Mx, maybe Pink Floyd? (LS,OH 252 PLS QSL) (SM,OK PLS QSL) (JS,NE)

Aug.13-0000-0007+-6955-USB. Niel Young mx. (PD,ME fair)

Aug.13-*0103-0109*-6954v-USB. Hrd mx/anncr tx, QRM fm Spanish stns. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Aug.13-0152-0154*-6955-USB. Hrd mx & anncr talking abt his "850" saying it was a wonderful machine but take's a while to tune. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Aug.16-0331-0348-6955-USB. 2 stns on at same time, one w/lotsa tx & other w/50's style crooner mx. (RR,CA 232)

Aug.18-0244-0300+-6955-USB. Grateful Dead mx. (PD,ME fair PLS QSL)

Aug.19-0344-0412*-6955-USB. Hrd comedy bits & upbeat R&B mx, mentioned JFK in one bit. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

Aug.20-0353-0403*-6955-USB. "Riders On The Storm", tx abt Charles Manson, audio cut out on ID & QSL info. (SM,OK PLS QSL)

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*** DX NEWS OF INTEREST ***

Deadline for OCTOBER 1998 DiaLogs: SEPTEMBER 20th

Veried Response

your center for QSL information and comment

John T. Arthur, proprietor 7994 Rte 19 Belfast NY 14711-8702
(716) 365-8870 (m.o.l.) not collect E-mail: cc732@freenet.buffalo.edu

with help from the VR Troopers and other good Friends. VR is electronically transmitted to A*C*E HDQ on or before the 20th of each month; please send your input and comments to the above address to arrive prior to the 15th. Your active participation in the form of input, reports, suggestions, and/or constructive criticism is solicited and welcomed.

Unless otherwise attributed, opinions in VR are those of this mildly disturbed individual and should not be misinterpreted to represent The A*C*E as an organization, or any other sane person for that matter. Got a beef? Comments and complaints should be directed to this columnist in triplicate for round-filing - and NOT to any other address.

"Here in America we are descended in spirit from revolutionists and rebels - men and women who dare dissent from accepted doctrine." --Dwight D. Eisenhower

What's News - the media report

Word from Tampa, Florida, is that Arthur Kobres was convicted in Federal Court of 14 counts of unlicensed broadcasting and sentenced to 6 months of house arrest, 3 years probation, and a \$7,500 fine. Kobres had operated a station from his home from 1995 until the November 1997 raid when his equipment was seized by federal agents. [Radio World, 19 Aug 98, pp 3]

"The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness." --John Kenneth Galbraith

The Swappe Shoppe

Buy, sell, trade announcements - Free to A*C*E members

Please be concise but complete: If you are looking for something accurately describe what you want; if you're offering something for sale give make, model, honest condition, and asking price. And please help me keep these ads up to date! NO collect calls unless otherwise specified.

Wanted:

Allied-Knight rcvrs, xmtrs, xcvs, and catalogs from the 60s and early 70s. Contact: John Vercellino, 6921 Springside Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60516.

New Zealand's free radio specialist needs recordings of US legal and pirate stations for a Radio Sound Archive. If you can contribute contact: SMR via Box 1, Belfast.

USA and Euro Pirates: Yr jingles & promos are needed by the Op of SMR for a 7" compilation. Send contributions via Box 1, Belfast, and help preserve Free Radio history.

For Sale:

Upgrade books for 10-meter radios, including Uniden, Realistic, RCI, Ranger, Sommerkamp and more. Improve xmit, rcv, synthesizer and audio sections - no crappy CB junk! Inquiries require a #10 SASE - all others ignored. Contact: Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Theremin - make wild sounds! Assembled PC boards, 10 available: \$50 to ACE members. Shipping included. Contact: C. Collins, POB 342502, Milwaukee, WI 53234.

Various FT243 crystals for older Heath & Johnson rigs; 90, 43, 41 & 19 meters: US\$10/ea, shipping included. Send a #10 SASE to: POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711 for complete list.

Now you can enjoy your favorite pirate programs in the privacy of your own home or car without the usual noise and static! The DVS Archive contains over 400 programs from more than 100 different NAM stations, and the cost is absurdly low: only \$2 per program (\$4 for two) if you supply the tape, or for \$6 DVS will also provide a C90 cassette. For a list of what's available, send a #10 SASE to: DVS, POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

Ever wonder how to broadcast "legally" without a license? Want to serve a small area on campus or around the school? "Adventures in Part 15 Broadcasting" is a clear, concise overview of the hobby and how it's done, what's permitted and what's not. Your copy is only \$15 postpaid from: Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Lots of good stuff for sale; radio related books and gear, model train stuff. This is a completely new list, with great discounts. Some new, some used, but NONE abused. Send a #10 SASE for complete list to: Brandon Artman, 515 N. Maryland Ave, West Chester, PA 19380.

For Trade:

Commercial FM exciter capable of 30 watts, FCC type approved, fully metered, set for 92.5 MHz. For quality HF rig with at least 100 watts output. Contact: jta for info.

"What experience and history teach us is that people and governments have never learned anything from history."
--Georg F. Hegel

TROLLing for Pirates...

the rumor center

Pirate Enthusiast Tony Benbenek underwent surgery in early August to remove a tumor from his lung. We're happy to report that the operation was a success, and they only had to remove one-third of a lung! He should have LOTS of time to tune for pirates now...

Unfortunately for Tony, things have certainly quieted down since PJ signed WREC off the air for the last time on 16 July. Used to be that you could turn on your radio almost any time of the day or night and hear a pirate program; all of a sudden it's rare again - kinda like the old days. It's gonna take a small handful of stations to take up the slack...

The Shortwave Relay Service has changed frequencies to avoid interference. Their primary 26-meter frequency is now 11470 kHz (or thereabouts), which is actually quite good on many occasions. Remember that if you want a QSL from them (which counts as Italy for the ACE Awards) you must send a report via the Wuppertal 'drop in Germany...

Speaking of the ACE Awards, several new people have recently qualified for the prestigious and good-looking new ACE Award certificates. Please join me in congratulating them:

Scott A. McArdle - 20 and 40 Different NAM Stations
Christopher Scott - 20 Different NAM Stations
Gary R. Neal - 20 Different NAM Stations
Joe Filipkowski - 280 and 300 Different NAM Stations!

Kudos and a tip of my hairpiece are certainly in order...

"Compromise is but the sacrifice of one right or good in the hope of retaining another - too often ending in the loss of both." --Tryon Edwards

Equipment review:

The Radio Shack DX-394 an underrated rig...

I recently came home with a Radio Shack DX-394 table-top receiver to add to the shack. I unpacked it with relatively low expectations, but I've been pleasantly surprised!

Here's what's good about it: It's actually pretty sensitive; with a decent antenna it pulls in everything I can get on the Yaesu! Selectivity does leave a lot to be desired, but for the price you can't complain too much. You can access any of the normal SW bands with a single key-press, and you can easily punch in any frequency you want in mere seconds. And it's got 160 memories; waayyy more than the Yaesu or my old Icom R70. I've already heard Radio Nonsense and Voice of the Rock on it - in only a few weeks.

What's bad about it? In reality you have to expect some design flaws and cost-cutting measures, and the DX394 is no exception. The noise blanker simply doesn't do anything. The 160 memories are arranged in banks of 10 for each "normal" SW band - that was probably supposed to be a feature, but it wasn't thought out too well; all memories should be globally available. The AGC is very slow. The audio output is rather tinny. And there's severe cross-talk with strong stations. All of these flaws are fixable, however, if you're handy with a very small soldering iron and a magnifying glass (it's surface mount stuff).

My overall impression is that if I had a choice of the DX-394 or another venerable Icom R70 - I'd choose the DX-394! And here's the best part: Although originally priced at a rather high \$400, they are already discontinued by the Shack and are being closed out at a measly US\$169 (or so - depends on the store), and if you wait a while the display models will be sold off at \$99. Now there's a deal you can't beat with a stick!

Probably the best radio the Shack has sold in a good many years; get 'em while you can.

"Most people go on living their everyday life: Half frightened, half indifferent, they behold the ghostly tragic-comedy that is being performed on the international stage before the eyes and ears of the world." --Albert Einstein

Interview with a Pirate OP

we talk to PJ Sparx of WREC

A few days ago we called PJ and asked if he'd mind giving an interview; he agreed. Most of the conversation went like this:

VR: Why did you decide to start broadcasting?

PJ: Mainly for the fun of it. I also wondered how easy it would be to get on the air.

VR: When was your first actual broadcast?

PJ: The first broadcast followed two test transmissions (which were heard by AY and jta) and took place on March 13th, 1993. WREC was heard in NY, PA, OH, and RI on that transmission.

VR: Over the 5.5 years of broadcast activity, what equipment did you use?

PJ: Kenwood TS450S, Johnson Viking II, Heathkit DX40, and an Animal Grenade were all used at various times. Antennas were two dipoles at 40 and 50 feet above ground.

VR: How well were you heard?

PJ: Quite well. WREC was heard in 46 US states, 8 Canadian provinces, and at least 20 countries.

VR: Were you satisfied with the quality of the material you relayed?

PJ: Uhhhh, well, not all of it.

VR: What made you decide to stop broadcasting?

PJ: Kinda got tired of it; I did everything I wanted to do.

VR: So what were your goals when you started?

PJ: To be heard all over the world, to issue more than 1000 QSLs, and to be voted the Best station in the ACE Poll.

VR: Think you'll ever return to the air?

PJ: Well, there's always the possibility, but it's unlikely in the near future.

VR: Any opinion on the so-called "studio pirates"?

PJ: Some of the programs were very well done, but some should never have been sent out on tape.

VR: How do you see the future of Free Radio?

PJ: Most likely fewer broadcasts, definitely fewer relays. And just maybe better radio overall.

VR: Any closing comments?

PJ: If I had forseen the controversy my retirement would create in the FRN Grapevine, I would never have retired!

I want to thank everyone who has supported WREC over the last 5 1/2 years by sending reception reports, feedback, relay tapes, etc. Thanks for listening and being there!
73 & FFFR! s/PJ Sparx

"The only thing wrong with Microsoft is that they have no taste." --Steve Jobs

and here's what was slipped....

Under The Door

the QSL report for September 1998

Rick Aiello was thrilled by a full data card from Mystery Radio signed by The Shadow with a personal note signed by Giggles. [Welcome to the club; keep listening and report often! jta]

Tony ("the tumor") Benbenek almost forgot a full data sheet (#15) from WPUP signed by Pirate Puppies in six months.

Ross Comeau let us know about a full data "Groucho, Morrison, Zappa" card (#8) from Scream of the Butterfly signed by Johnny Rockin in 53 days.

Joe "DiaLogs" Filipkowski checked in with a full data sheet (#1) from Weird Al Radio signed by Al in 25 months, a full data sheet from Infinity Minus One signed by The Gatekeeper in 24 months for ACE log, a full data sheet (#1) from WPUP signed by Pirate Puppies in 13 months, a full data "What A Pair" card (#151) with letter and official hillbilly costume from Voice Of

The Long Run in 8 months, a full data color card (#002) from The Scream Of The Butterfly signed by Johnny Rockin' in 2 months, a full data card with stickers and infosheet from Radio Joystick (via WREC) in 35 days, a full data blue card and infosheet from Rock-It Radio in 3 months, and a full data letter from WHYP in 18 days.

Edward Kusalik thawed a bit with a full data Blue card with 4-page info sheet in 44 days signed by Bennie Dingo for a e-mail report, and a full data "Dad wants to know if Matt's a Pothead" on 7th Heaven Card from Reefer Madness Radio signed by Harry Anslinger Jr in 44 days.

Greg Majewski received a very nice letter from WHYP with a pamphlet for a museum in North East, PA, in 15 days for an Email report, and a nice "Hotel JTA" letter (#210) from Radio Eclipse signed by Steve Mann in about 67 days.

Scott McArdle was thrilled to get a full data sheet from WEUP signed by Pirate Puppies in 170 days, QSL confirmation on the back of a Corbett Canyon California White Zinfandel label from Zinfandel Radio w/note stating that because he was the only reporter, he was getting a unique & one of a kind QSL (says not really a station though and no other QSL's will be issued) in 51 days for ACE website posting (HEY THANKS!), a full data gross but tasteful card w/o official seal with 8 1/2 X 11 gross but tasteful sheet and brochure from Renfro Valley, Kentucky's country music capital, from Radio Azteca in 51 days, a full data large Groucho, Jim & Frank QSL card & ltr from Scream of the Butterfly signed by Johnny Rockin' in 66 days, a full data ACE of spades card from Jerry Rigged Radio in 17 days for ACE website posting, a card from Radio Mysterioso in 3 days for ACE website posting, a full data card with 4 page infosheet from Rock-It Radio for 5-23-98 logging somewhere, a full data card from WGTG in 146 days, a Grapevine confirmation in 4 days and 8 1/2 X 11" 2 sided QSL w/bed & breakfast brochure from WHYP in 11 days for email rpt.

Gary Neal received a full data card (#174) from WGTG (via Radio Eclipse) signed by Steve Mann in 135 days.

Mike Prindle raves about a full data "Switzerland meets USA" Winterfest card (#177) from Radio 510 Int'l (via Ant eater R) with letter and a whole bunch of other stuff in about 6 weeks, and his reception report returned marked "verified by Mojo" with a personal message (on unique paper) from WLIQ in about 2.5 months.

George Zeller is showing off a full data drawing of preacher, nun, angel, and parishioner card (#196) from WGTG in 88 days, and a full data "James Brownyard Memorial Station" ltr with menu for LaCassa de Pizza in North East, PA, in 37 days.

SIG file tag line of the month:

"Who is General Failure - and why is he reading my disk?"

Until next, 73 and Great Pirate DX...

CLANDESTINE PROFILE

George Zeller; 3492 West 123rd St.; Cleveland, OH 44111-3553

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1300-2145 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my georgez@acclink.com address. My old e-mail address of George.Zeller@acclink.com still works as well.

AFGHANISTAN AND SUDAN

The August 20 cruise missile attack by the United States on radical Arabic fundamentalist camps in Afghanistan and a factory in Sudan have caused our attention to focus on these two countries. As usual, one of the first places to go for information on clandestine radio activity in these two countries is the outstanding Clandestine Radio Intel internet web site. I received a couple of messages from Martin Schoech in Germany that explained some delays in scheduled updates to this site in August. Our own Nick Grace, who works on this site with Martin, was called unexpectedly out of town for a period on business. Nick has now returned, and it is likely that the site will have been updated by the time that you read this column. So, point your browser to <http://www.qsl.net/yb0rmi/cland.htm> for the latest developments.

There are two Afghan clandestines listed on the CRI web site. One, Radio Afghanistan, is the station of the opposition to the fundamentalist Muslim Taliban government, which now controls a huge majority of the land area of Afghanistan. The latest logs of this one indicate that it is noted with one hour programs in Pashto and Dari on 7084v kHz at 0230, 0730, 1230, and 1430 UTC. Given these times, we don't see many logs of the station from North America. But, as the days get shorter into the fall, we might have a shot at the 0230 UTC transmission through 40 meter digital ham QRM, at least in the eastern part of North America. Speculation from BBCMS and other sources, cited in the CRI web site, suggests that the transmitter of this station might be in Pakistan, possibly sharing transmitters with the Voice of Free Tajikistan. The clandestine has been with us since January in 1997.

The other station listed in CRI is the Voice of Shari'a, translating to the Voice of Islamic Law. This one is the station of the Taliban rebels in Afghanistan. I suppose we might want to drop the word "rebels" from a description like this, given the fact that the Taliban now controls the Afghan government, a substantial majority of the population of the country, and an increasing portion of the land area. This one uses 7200 kHz, with times noted during the last year around 0230 and 1330 UTC. Shows allegedly run for 75 minutes. They also use medium wave frequencies of 1107 and 1278 that should be virtually impossible from North America. Once again, our best shot for this tough DX would seem to be the 0230 UTC transmission. The transmitter supposedly is in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Local Pashto and Dari languages make up the programming.

CRI also lists two active clandestines that target Sudan. One goes by three ID's: Radio of the Voice of Liberty and Renewal, Voice of the Sudan Alliance Forces, and Voice of the Popular Armed Uprising. In Arabic the ID is Sawt Nedal al-Shab al-Sudany al-Mosalah. This one is operated with the Sudan Alliance Forces, a subgroup of the National Democratic Alliance consisting largely of northern Sudan military personnel and former members of the Sudan government. It's used Arabic since May 1998. We don't see many North American logs from this one, which is on around 1600 UTC for an hour on 6999 or 7000 kHz. If you defy the impossible propagation conditions and actually hear this one, allegedly it uses a Canadian maildrop at 37 Cassidy Street #228, Kingston, Ontario K7K 7B3.

Another Sudanese clandestine is the voice of the Sudanese National Democratic Alliance from the eastern part of Sudan. Their Arabic ID is Izaat-tu Sawt-u ad-Dimukratiyah Sudan, which in English amounts to the Voice of Sudan. They have been on since August 1995, normally in Arabic but with occasional English segments. This one has been widely heard, and has even been logged in past ACE Clandestine Profile columns. They air two hour broadcasts at 0400 and 1600 UTC on variable frequencies between 7994 and 8000 kHz. Two addresses are apparently good, including 16 Cameret Court, Lorne Gardens, London W11 4XX, England and PO Box 4961, Asmara, Eritrea. Speculation centers on Eritrea as a transmitter site.

I have no knowledge of a clandestine station associated with Osama bin Laden, the multimillionaire Saudi Arabian who is alleged by the United States to be the leader of the group targeted by the military attacks. Press accounts have noted that he has been expelled from Saudi Arabia, partly at the request of the USA. Numerous press accounts also note that Afghanistan has been friendly to radical Islamic terrorist groups under the government of the Taliban.

I heard a report on the BBC that the government of Pakistan had complained that one of the USA cruise missiles had landed by mistake in Pakistan, with some fatalities, but I have seen nothing about this report in the USA press. Pakistan has been upset that the cruise missiles flew over Pakistan territory on the way to Afghanistan. But, you will note that Pakistan appears to be hedging its bets by possibly being the QTH for the anti-Taliban rebel clandestine. The Sudan government has also been upset at the attacks. Certainly more news will be available by the time that this column reaches your mailbox. But, it would be a good idea to keep our eyes on possible associations between the Afghan and Sudanese clandestines and the confrontation between the USA and Osama bin Laden.

1999 PASSPORT

Larry Magne of IBS North America sends word that the 1999 edition of *Passport to World Band Radio* will shortly be available from your favorite retailer. This book is a tremendously valuable reference for clandestine DXers. Unlike the *WRTH*, Magne's book always has a detailed discussion of clandestine radio stations with their addresses (when known). This includes a substantial quantity of quasi-clandestine stations that purchase time on USA and Costa Rican shortwave stations, as well as a large number of pure clandestines around the world. Frequencies and times for the pure clandestine broadcasters are found within the *Passport* blue pages section. IBS maintains a web site with the latest information on the book's availability, so <http://www.passport.com> is a good place to check out.

CUBAN WEB SITE NEWS

This month we have news from two Cuban web sites that we frequently have mentioned in the past. First, Armando F. Mastrapa notes that both the URL and the e-mail address have changed for the Clandestine Radio: An Anti-Castro Historiography project. Their web site is now at <http://polisci.home.mindspring.com/ach.html> on the web. E-mail now goes to polisci@mindspring.com or anti_castro_radio@yahoo.com with either address apparently working.

Max, the WebMaster at the Cuba MegaLinks Center, notes that this link site has expanded to over 1,000 links to Cuban material. Some of these have clandestine connections. The <http://www.laker.net/nike/megalinks.html> URL still works for this service.

TIDY COMMENTS ON ACE WEB SITE AND WW II CLANDESTINES

I received a helpful e-mail from Roger Tidy in the UK, whose rogertidy@ndirect.co.uk address is a contact point. Roger comments on the ACE web site:

"The second paragraph says, 'Many historical clandestines have become legendary. Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose are well known German and Japanese broadcasters from World War II...' Although it is not stated explicitly, this suggests that these broadcasts were clandestines. In fact, Axis Sally (real name Mildred Gillars, who broadcast under the nickname 'Midge at the Mike') spoke to North America over the overt Reichsrundfunk's external service. She was not a clandestine broadcaster. 'Tokyo Rose' was a generic term applied to just about any female announcer on Radio Tokyo's broadcasts to American forces. The name was not used on the air. Iva Toguri A'Aquino, who stood trial for her Japanese broadcasts after the war, actually broadcast under the name 'Orphan Annie.' As her broadcasts went out over the official Radio Tokyo, they were not clandestine."

"The Germans did, however, direct clandestine broadcasts to the USA. There may have been several but the one I know about is Station Debunk, which initially claimed to broadcast from Iowa. Its speakers were Dr. Herbert Burgman (a former employee of the US embassy in Berlin), the brothers Edward and Charles Sittler and Julius Kraus. (See *Hitler's Airwaves* by Horst Bergmeier and Ranier Lotz)."

"I am currently researching the history of radio propaganda and would welcome any information you might have, especially concerning World War II clandestines targeted at the USA or its armed forces. Apparently the Nazis planned an 'astrological' clandestine for the American audience. There was also, I believe, a station known as 'Die Stimme der Freiheit' beamed to the German community in the USA. Do you have any information on these?"

We thank Roger for this interesting commentary. Does anyone have any information that might be helpful to Roger? If so, he would welcome it via the e-mail address above. I also want to thank Kirk Trummel and John Cruzan, who are assisting in occasional revisions to the Clandestine Profile portion of the ACE web site. I'll have to work on some updates to reflect Roger's comments when I get a chance.

While I am on the subject of Kirk Trummel, he announces that he has a CD available containing material produced by over three dozen pirate radio stations. The CD is available for \$20. If you'd like to order one, send the cash to Kirk Trummel, 713 Neptune, Dorval, Quebec H9P 2A9, Canada.

BBCMS PROFILES

Courtesy of Bob Grove and *Monitoring Times* magazine, we have a couple of Ethiopian clandestine items this month from BBCMS that overflowed from *MT's* coverage. We thank Bob.

The Voice of Oromo Liberation, using an Oromo language Sagalee Billisumma Oromoo ID, is the voice of the Oromo Liberation Front. It emerged from a transmitter in Sudan in 1988, but it moved in 1993 to WWCN in Tennessee, and in 1995 to WHRI in Indiana. BBCMS says that since January 1998 the relay has been via Deutsche Telekom's transmitters in Germany. They are scheduled for an hour at 1700 UTC on 11605 kHz. If you want to send them a report, SBO, Prinzenallee 81, 13357 Berlin, Germany is the address to use. They also maintain a USA address at PO Box 73247, Washington, DC 20056.

Radio Rainbow, the Vice of Peace and Brotherhood, has been on the air since September 1997. It is the voice of an Ethiopian opposition group known as the Research and Action Group for Peace in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa. As is the case with Oromo, they use the German

Telecom transmitters. One hour broadcasts in Amharic are scheduled at 0100 UTC on 9855 kHz, at 0900 UTC on 5910 kHz, and at 1600 UTC on 15105 kHz. The Amharic ID for this one is "kestedamena rediyo ye selamena yewendimamach dimtse." The address for reports is RAPEHGA, PO Box 140 104, 53056 Bonn, Germany.

PROGRAMMING ON VOICE OF REBELLIOUS IRAQ

MT received an item on the Voice of Rebellious Iraq that unfortunately got separated from the contributor, whose name was Todd. The *Global Intelligence Update* noted on July 8 that the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq issued a statement on the Voice of Rebellious Iraq, claiming that Mujahedin rebels attacked the Baath party headquarters in Najaf, Iraq on June 25. The attack was said to be in retaliation for the mid-June assassination of Ayatollah Mirza Ali Gharavi. The announcement also claimed responsibility for attacks on Baath party offices in Basra, Iraq on June 7 and June 14, as well as a June 13 wounding of Iraqi National Assembly member Hamid Sha'ban Kazim in Baghdad.

If you're interested in the service, <http://www.stratfor.com/mail/> provides details on how to sign up for the Global Intelligence Updates.

PIRATE RADIO DIRECTORY

Dave Maxwell, whose QTH now escapes me, wrote in asking about the 1998 edition of *The Pirate Radio Directory*. Both Andrew Yoder and I had impossible workloads at the time when this book normally is written, and Tiare Publications maven Gerry Dexter has announced that the book will not be published for 1998. Andrew Yoder is giving some thought to an unofficial version in some form, so stay tuned.

FREE RADIO ASSESSMENT PROJECT

Dr. Steven Dick and Dr. Walter McDowell of the Department of Radio and Television at Southern Illinois University send in word that they are conducting a research study called the Free Radio Assessment Project. They are trying to gather information on the behavior and motivations of Free Radio operators in North America. A twelve question research instrument asks pirate operators to discuss their programming, audience, goals, and so forth. Dick and McDowell note that all respondents to their survey can be assured of absolute confidentiality. Their research model has been reviewed and approved by the Southern Illinois University College Human Subjects Committee. They promise that when they have published results, they will share them with publications such as *The ACE*. Their research results will be posted at <http://members.AOL.com/siubarn/freeradio/> on the internet when the project reaches that stage.

The two professors are asking for the cooperation of Free Radio operators as they gather their data. They hope that many will respond to their questionnaire. For more information, check out the web site above. Or, copies of the questionnaire are available from Dr. Steven Dick, Department of Radio-TV, CMCMA, SLIC, Carbondale, Illinois 62901. They note that they are not interested in the identity or QTH of any station operator.

THANKS!

This month we thank the following DXers who sent in material direct to this column: and Zacharias Lingias (Italy), Steven Dick (Illinois), Martin Schoech (Germany), Larry Magne (Pennsylvania), Armando F. Mastrapa (Florida?), Roger Tidy (United Kingdom), Kirk Trummel (Quebec), Dave Maxwell (QTH lost), Gerry Dexter (Wisconsin), and George Zeller (Ohio). Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by September 19 for the September ACE Clandestine Profile.

Micro 'casting

Bud Stacey, P.O. Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572-0907

e-mail: salstacey@aol.com

The sole purpose of this column is to enlighten and educate ACE members about the many facets of Part 15 Radio- this is YOUR column! Please send all newspaper clippings, tapes, station profiles and what have you to the addresses above....

AND THE LEGAL BATTLES ENSUE: Yes, now that Stephen Dunifer and other high-profile free radio/microbroadcasting enthusiasts have been ruled against, the "bust-the-door-down!" policy seemingly has begun at the FCC. Now that I am FINALLY on-line, I can better glean information pertaining to the legal battles and what folks are doing- and I have to thank my fellow columnists for clueing me in when I was clueless! But I'm learning as fast as I can, so thanks for YOUR patience!

Several micro-casters have sent me station profiles (as you'll read shortly) but the one that shocked me was last month's news of Radio Mutiny--what a Gestapo attitude the FCC has taken! To show that a small station CAN cover a small town, here's an excerpt from a forwarded e-mail message from a young man "up north":

"I was operating on 92.7 MHz mono at about 12 watts 24 hours a day (most of the time) with a computer playing mp3 files all day. Two FCC guys came over today and I was at work so they talked to my step-mom. They flashed some kind of badge and asked to see the equipment. She told them they should wait until me or my dad got home."

"One of them called me on the phone...said they'd been listening for a while. (At this point, the agent cited he was in violation, asked his power output, asked if he sold ads and even told the operator his Ham callsign! Bud.) I told him I shut it down and it will stay shut down. They are going to send me a letter...and want me to sign that I have read it and send it back."

"...it was fun while it lasted. I had TONS of listeners! (town's name) is a small city, But SO many people like it (the station)...Oh, well, I don't have \$10K laying around if I get fined...time to sell my equipment I guess...and I just (expletive!) ordered a stereo generator tool!"

At least the FCC didn't cut his mom & dad's locks! But, for every battle lost like this, more battles start up and are running! As is the following story shows, success DOES happen:

"Our station was going along fine by Feb. '92 and we had a pretty decent listenership. Maybe too good. The local "alternative" paper did a cover story one week and it was picked up by the local NBC-TV affiliate as well. The media publicity prompted a visit from our friendly FCC field agents within 48 hours when we went on the air as scheduled."

"Shortly after that evening's broadcast began, white station wagons and marked police cars were filling the street in front of our studio. The FCC must have wanted to put on a show of force that night, possibly because two television crews were on-hand to record the "pirate" bust. FCC and other Feds as well as local cops stormed the property as helicopters circled and searchlights lit our neighborhood. The neighbors must have thought we were serial killers."

"After they walked around the apartment house for a few moments, taking notes, studying our antenna and talking about serious matters in hushed tones, the lead FCC agent calmly approached the door with a few of his stormtroopers and a couple of cops. The TV cameras were steadily focused for his next move. He buzzed our intercom as the station continued to play. 'Hello, my name is.....of the Federal Communications Commission. We'd like to inspect your radio station', he said in a very serious manner."

" 'Do you have a warrant?' was the reply. Mr. FCC agent paused, looked at his cronies, then at the cameras and then at the ground. 'No, we do not', he answered, apparently wondering why he couldn't just barge in on these folks who were 'stealing' his air. It was truly a comedy of errors. We just kept the music playing. The agents walked away from the door and stayed for a while longer, taking more notes and listening to the station defiantly continue broadcasting. Finally, all but a few left, taking down license plate numbers and sipping coffee in their stylish station wagons. We continued to broadcast until our scheduled sign-off. "

"We needed to get the transmitter out without being followed and getting it confiscated. Our idea? Get as many empty boxes as we could, put the transmitter in one of them and leave with all of them. They couldn't follow all of us and I don't think they tried when they saw what we were doing. After a short hiatus, Radio Free was back on the air."

"We broadcasted successfully for a few more months with a final show on election night of '92. There was additional media attention, plus a rumored notice from the FCC that threatened fines totaling an alleged \$18K...but none of us ever saw it. They sent it to someone else, who claimed they didn't run any radio station!"

"Captain Cracker", as he wishes to be known, says that was his start into to micro'-casting. A few years later, he got itchy again, with "free speech issues popping up, and those clowns who keep trying to stifle free speech need to be taught a serious lesson", he says. So he's doing the home-brew method now, running 1.5 watts into a "jerry-rigged j-pole" and he & his partners are working on a 20 watt amp. Their plans are to move closer into the city once things are working well, but for now they cover a small town pretty well at 104.9 MHz. Captain Cracker sent me a tape of the first 5 minutes of the "bust" with the TV in the background with audio as "it" happened, with the final portion as their final broadcast on Election Day 1992. Thanks, Captain and good luck in all of your future endeavors!

On a more serious note: what are micro'-casters to do? My opinions are; 1. Operate at levels as per Part 15 rules & regs and put out the best programming possible; 2. With several proposals before the FCC, YOUR COMMENTS COUNT! E-mail 'em, write to 'em, let your voice be heard- you are a tax-paying American- you are paying THEIR salaries, so let them know you're dissatisfied with their performance, as any good employer would, and let them know what you want DONE in the micro-radio world; 3. BE PERSISTENT BUT NOT ABUSIVE! If you have to, write 'em once or twice a week, but contact them.

Even though the FCC commissioners are appointed, enough public sentiment MAY put pressure where it counts- let's see what happens, the opportunities are before us!

With that, hasta la vista, amigos, amigas---viva la radio! Bud

Covert Comms

305 Granby Street Frontenac, KS 66763-2440
tmsevart@apexcorp.com

By Tom Sevart

Voice / Fax: 316-231-0228

In the summer of 1990 I found myself as a radio operator with the U.S. Air Force stationed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Every so often while tuning in the 8 mHz band, I heard something that sounded similar to Chinese music. Once the receiver was tuned directly to 8300 kHz and set to AM mode, I discovered exactly what it was that I'd been hearing. It turned out to be what we now know as the "New Star" YL/CC numbers station.

This station was the very first numbers station I ever heard. I must say it really intrigued me at the time since I didn't know what it was, and neither did anyone else in my unit. Unfortunately nobody spoke Chinese so we couldn't get a translation of the announcement at the beginning of the broadcast, let alone the number groups. The carrier on 8300 stayed up 24 hours a day with transmissions beginning at 00 and 30 minutes past the hour.

8300 kHz is not the only frequency in use by New Star. It is the most widely heard & reported, and is the only frequency on which I've logged New Star. According to ENIGMA, the current frequencies in use are 8300, 8375, 9725, 11430, 13750, and 15388. I can hear it on 8300 around 1200 UTC here in the central U.S., although the signal is usually very weak. Monitors on the west coast will probably have much better luck hearing it on all frequencies. I have made a decent recording of New Star when I was in England of all places.

Each transmission begun by playing a tune on an Oriental flute, which was followed by a female voice with an announcement in Chinese. This was followed by a second female voice with another announcement which was in turn followed by the 4F groups. Each group is sent twice. According to an article by Jerod Pore in the July 1991 issue of *The Numbers Factsheet* compiled by the late Havana Moon, this announcement contains the station ID of "New Star Broadcasting Station." According to the article, broadcast times are also given in the announcement, but this has been in dispute. One problem is the lack of knowledge of the Chinese language by most SWLs to be able to understand exactly what is being said.

There has been some speculation as to the operating agency and purpose of New Star. Once again, according to the article in *The Numbers Factsheet*, part of the announcement at the beginning of the broadcast refers to sending "telegrams." in the Far East, telegrams are sent using a four-digit number standing for each character, or ideogram, of the Chinese language. The numbers are then decoded at the receiving end. This gives a cover of legitimacy to the operation of New Star, except that the four-digit numbers never make any sense when converted to ideograms. It's obvious that four-digit cipher groups are being sent.

It has been suggested that the whole New Star operation is simply a disinformation scheme by Taiwan to make the mainland Chinese government believe that there are Taiwanese agents operating inside China. This very well could be, as with all numbers stations, but there are a few clues to suggest that there are people using New Star for communications purposes. One is the fact that some broadcasts have become computerized with the numbers being inserted by computer. If this were a simple disinformation operation, this wouldn't be necessary. Secondly, judging from the frequencies used, the operators want to ensure coverage into China. During the daylight hours, higher frequencies have to be used due to D-layer absorption of radio signals below 10 mHz or so. What I find odd is the lack of frequencies used below 8 mHz. This would give excellent short-range coverage to China from Taiwan during the night hours. There may be some lower frequencies in use, but they have never been logged by SWLs.

New Star has always held a certain fascination for me. It will always be special to me as the first numbers station I ever heard, but I believe it intrigued me enough to become interested in numbers stations in general. It is certainly an interesting numbers station.

Free Radio and Pirate Radio WWW sites on the INTERNET

(Updated 8-29-98)

Association of Clandestine Enthusiasts (ACE) – <http://www.frn.net/ace/>

British Pirate Radio – <http://www.fused.com/www/xbones.htm>

British Pirate Radio History – <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/estates/4915/>

Clandestine Radio Intel – <http://www.qsl.net/yb0rmi/cland.htm>

Free Radio Assessment Project Survey – <http://members.aol.com/siubarn/freeradio>

Free Radio Network – <http://www.frn.net>

Free Radio Weekly – <http://w3.one.net/~folk/frw.htm>

Free Speech Community Radio – <http://www.fortunecity.com/tinpan/starr/590/index.html>

Hobby Broadcasting – <http://www.frn.net/rfi>

Millenium Radio – <http://www.gelat.com/radio>

Offshore Echo – <http://www.guernsey.net/~bebridel/>

Pirate Pages – <http://www.frn.net/rfi/pipa>

Radio Free New York – <http://rfny.simplenet.com/>

Realistic Phreedom Radio – <http://realistic.cjb.net>

Short Wave Relay Service – <http://listen.to/swrs>

SRS News – <http://www.lls.se/~jal>

WJDI Radio – <http://members.tripod.com/~WJDI>

Please send any new www site info to stever@infi.net for future updates

The Presidents Page

Pat Murphy – P.O. Box 12112 – Norfolk, VA 23541

Propagation has been pretty good, here on the East Coast and from what I'm hearing from ACE members in the mid-west and to the West, they've been having great luck in picking up stations from all over the world. We are really lucky to have so many pirate stations on the air, with great programming, I might add, to add to our listening hobby and enjoyment. Sometimes in the quest for QSL's we forget to thank the operators for all their hard effort and risk to provide us with something to listen to and log.

If you placed an order for an Official ACE T-shirt in the past 2-months, please be patient. We have to order them by the dozen and I have to wait until we have enough orders to get them. We pay as we go, so be cool; your T-shirt will be in the mail soon.

Thanks again for all the people who make the ACE happen each and every month. Mary and Inez, who print and staple, Christen who helps me to stamp and label, our columnist's who pay attention to what is going on, then write it down to share the information with other members. Steve Rogovich does more work on this publication than you could ever imagine. He keeps me straight on the database, labels and puts the columns together each month from the writers. None of this would be possible if it weren't for the dedication and hard work of Steve Rogovich. Let him know you appreciate it, without him, we'd all be in a lot of trouble. These people never get enough credit for their important role in making this work. Thank you!

VISIT THE ACE WEBSITE

www.frn.net/ace/

ASSOCIATION OF CLANDESTINE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS
P. O. Box 12112, Norfolk, VA 23541-0112

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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